



# G-5's "Eye on AMC"

## U.S. Army Materiel Command

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### **Ramps speed Chinook deliveries**

The job is tough enough spending time and effort muscling a loaded pallet of supplies off a CH-47 helicopter, cargo can get banged up when it tumbles out the door. However, help is on the way.

A request for off-loading equipment last summer from a member of the Army's Rapid Equipping Force operating in Southwest Asia led the Aerial Delivery and Engineering Support Team at the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center in Natick, Mass., to develop a field-expedient fix in just 90 days.

Commercially-available conveyor rollers along with wooden ramp extensions, complementing existing off-load extensions, provide a quick, easy and inexpensive way to move out cargo without sacrificing troop transit, said Bob Pitts, an equipment specialist and project officer for the CH-47 Rapid Off-Load.

"Everybody down there said 'I wish I would have had this when I was there,'" Pitts said about the pilots, crew chiefs and flight engineers with combat experience in Afghanistan and Iraq taking part in an evaluation at Fort Campbell, Ky. After the evaluation, 120 roller systems were sent to Southwest Asia, with another order of 60 on the way.

Since the 1960s, the CH-47 Chinook helicopter has delivered troops and equipment to almost any type of terrain. They have been flown for airborne missions, casualty evacuation, aircraft recovery, disaster relief, and search and rescue missions.

### **Last mustard agent container removed from Aberdeen**

The Edgewood Chemical Activity, made history Feb. 2 when, with support from the 22d Chemical Battalion (Technical Escort), it removed the last container of mustard agent from Aberdeen's Chemical Agent Storage Yard. The container was taken to the Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility for agent destruction.

This marks the end of 61 years of bulk mustard agent storage at Aberdeen Proving Ground, and makes APG the first of eight U.S. Army stockpile sites in the continental United States to have emptied its stockpile storage area, eliminating the risk the stored agent posed to surrounding communities during the past six decades. With the removal of the last ton container, ABCDF enters the final phase of its mission of completely destroying the APG stockpile.

The first ton container was removed from CASY in April 2003 when ABCDF began operations. Since then, ECA has managed the safe movement of 1,817 ton containers containing 1,623 tons of mustard agent.

### **Depot's electronics expertise supports up-armor effort**

Tobyhanna personnel are now producing wiring assemblies at the depot as part of an effort at Watervliet Arsenal to armor five-ton Army trucks used in Iraq.

Personnel in the Special Projects and Fabrication Branch of the Systems Integration and Support Directorate geared up quickly last month to produce more than 500 wiring assemblies by early March, says Debbie Shea, chief of the depot's Manufacturing Scheduling Division, Production Management Directorate. Shop personnel are on schedule and are now producing 50 kits a week.

Watervliet Arsenal, near Albany, N.Y., manufactures gun tubes and other artillery-related components. It is also currently producing add-on-armor kits for HMMWVs and other Army vehicles, including kits for the M939, five-ton truck.

"Watervliet came to Tobyhanna because of our expertise in fabricating a wide variety of wiring harnesses," said Jack Merkel, electronics engineer.

They realized they were not capable of rapidly producing the wiring harness kits and needed immediate assistance from someone familiar with wiring harness fabrication to meet the expedited schedule, Merkel said.

With a satisfied partner at Watervliet, other depots involved in the armor effort are contacting Tobyhanna about producing additional assemblies. The depot could be tasked to produce several hundred to several thousand more of the wiring assemblies as part of the continuing armor effort to protect Soldiers from attacks.